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Gen. Shoup Derides U.S. Stand on Vietnam

United Press International
Gen. David Shoup, retired Marine Corps Commandant, said yesterday President Johnson's contention that the Vietnam war is vital to U.S. interests is "pure unadulterated poppycock." He said it was really a civil war among the Vietnamese.

The 63-year-old Medal of Honor winner said Communists in Southeast Asia were no threat to the United States and that the Vietnam war amounted to civil strife between "those crooks in Saigon" and Vietnamese nationalists seeking a better life.

Shoup's criticism of the Administration's policy clashed sharply with his former Pentagon colleagues, who claim Asians would export communism eastward across the Pacific Ocean unless stopped short of U.S. shores.

But in a local radio inter-

view in New York City with Rep. William F. Ryan (D-N.Y.) Shoup said:

"They just keep trying to keep the people worried about the Communists crawling up the banks of Pearl Harbor, or crawling up the Palisades, or crawling up the beaches of Los Angeles, which of course is a bunch of pure unadulterated poppycock."

Shoup, Marine commandant from 1960 to 1963, said the only way the United States could win a military victory over North Vietnam in the foreseeable future would be to "commit genocide on that poor little country."

The only way to win the war, he said, was through a negotiated settlement.

Shoup also said Mr. Johnson would promise in advance to cease all offensive military actions when peace talks begin,

and should call on North Vietnamese President Ho Chi Minh to set the time and place for negotiations.

Shoup created a stir earlier this year after Sen. Vance Hartke (D-Ind.) gave wide circulation to a little-noticed speech Shoup made in 1966. In it, he said the United States should have kept its "dirty, bloody fingers" out of Vietnam and that the Vietnamese should not have an American solution to their problems "crammed down their throats by Americans."

Asked by Ryan if he still stood by that statement, Shoup said that he did and was sure more persons agreed with him now than they did when he made it.

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